

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Official Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by HENDRICKS et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,734,853). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over HENDRICKS in view of HIROSE (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0217167 A1). Claims 5-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over HENDRICKS in view of KUNII (U.S. Patent No. 7,095,402 B2). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over HENDRICKS in view of KUNII and HIROSE.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 5-8, and 12 are amended. Claims 1-12 are currently pending for consideration by the Examiner.

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 714.13, Applicants contend that entry of the present amendment is appropriate because the proposed amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the last Official Action, resulting in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or alternatively, the revised claims place the application in better condition for purposes of appeal. Furthermore, the revised claims do not present any new issues that would require any further consideration or search by the Examiner, and the amendment does not present any additional claims without cancelling a like number of pending claims. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by HENDRICKS. Applicants submit that HENDRICKS fails to disclose several features recited in Applicants' independent claim 1. For instance, claim 1 recites three separate and distinct components including a controlled device, a remote controller, and a terminal at a remote place. In the rejection and the "Response to Arguments" section, the Final Official Action asserts

HENDRICKS' set top terminal (220) as corresponding to Applicants' controlled device, HENDRICKS' remote (900) as corresponding to Applicants' remote controller, and HENDRICKS' set top terminal (220) as corresponding to Applicants' terminal at a remote place. Thus, the Final Official Action asserts that HENDRICKS' set top terminal (220) corresponds to both of Applicants' claimed controlled device and claimed terminal at a remote place. Accordingly, Applicants submit that HENDRICKS fails to disclose three separate and distinct components as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, claim 1 explicitly recites that the terminal is located at a remote place from the controlled device. Accordingly, Applicants submit that HENDRIDCKS' set top terminal could not possibly correspond to both the controlled device and the terminal at a remote place, as recited in claim 1, since Applicants' controlled device and terminal at a remote place are located at two separate and distinct locations.

Claim 1 recites that the controlled device includes a storage section that stores a channel table which associates broadcast station numbers with channel numbers. Claim 1 also recites that both the broadcast station numbers and the channel numbers are both allocated to associated broadcast stations. Claim 1 further recites that the broadcast station numbers are used by the remote controller to specify the associated broadcast stations, whereas the channel numbers are used by the controlled device to specify the associated broadcast stations. Thus, Claim 1 recites that each broadcast station is allocated two distinct and separate numbers, that is, both a broadcast station number and a channel number, and that the channel table associates each broadcast station's allocated broadcast station number with the broadcast station's allocated channel number. Applicants submit that this feature provides the advantage that the controlled device can recognize a correct relationship between the broadcast station number (which

generally remains constant) and the channel number (which generally varies by geographical area), regardless of the area where the controlled device is located. This feature is discussed, for instance, in Applicants' specification, from line 25 of page 4 to line 6 of page 5.

In the rejection and the "Response to Arguments" section, the Final Official Action asserts that HENDRICKS' Figure 14 discloses a channel table that corresponds to Applicant's claimed channel table. Contrary to this assertion, Applicants submit that HENDRICKS' Figure 14 merely shows an illustration of the association of the broadcast station's channel number with the broadcast station's name. Thus, Applicants submit that HENDRICKS' Figure 14 fails to disclose the association of the broadcast station's allocated channel number with the broadcast station's allocated broadcast station number. On a more basic level, HENDRICKS' Figure 14 only disclose one column of numbers. Thus, Applicants submit that it is impossible for HENDRICKS' Figure 14 to associate two sets of numbers since HENDRICKS' Figure 14 only discloses one set of numbers.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that HENDRICKS fails to anticipate Applicants' independent claim 1, since HENDRICKS fails to disclose each and every feature of claim 1. Additionally, Applicants submit that claims 2-3, which directly depend from independent claim 1, are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1, and further for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) be withdrawn.

Claims 4-7 depend, either directly or indirectly, upon independent claim 1. Applicants submit that neither HIROSE nor KUNII remedy the deficiencies of HENDRICKS discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Independent claims 8 and 12 recite features similar to those discussed above regarding independent claim 1, which HENDRICKS fails to disclose for at least the reasons discussed above. Additionally, Applicants submit that KUNII fails to remedy the deficiencies of HENDRICKS. Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 8 and 12 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of the applied references. Additionally, Applicants submit that claims 9-11, which depend upon independent claim 8 are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above, and further for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn.

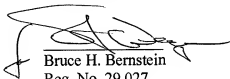
SUMMARY

From the amendments, arguments, and remarks provided above, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims in the present application are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Official Action is respectfully requested and an indication of the allowance of claims 1-12 is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made by this amendment and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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